

From the:  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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**PCT**

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing 1 JUL 2005  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
2040553-SLB

FOR FURTHER ACTION  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/SG2005/000084

International filing date (day/month/year)  
17 March 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
17 March 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> G06F 12/14; H04L 9/18; G06K 19/073

Applicant  
DIGISAFE PTE LTD et al

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the opinion   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application  |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU  
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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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**Box No. V**      **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 2, 3, 5	YES
	Claims 1, 4, 6	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 2, 3, 5	YES
	Claims 1, 4, 6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 6	YES
	Claims	NO

**2. Citations and explanations:**

**Novelty (N) and Inventive Step (IS):**

- D1) US 2004/0103288 A1 (Ziv et al.) 27 May 2004
- D2) US 2002/0188856 A1 (Worby) 12 December 2002
- D3) WO 2001/035193 A1 (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION) 17 May 2001
- D4) US 6199163 B1 (Dumas et al.) 6 March 2001
- D5) EP 911738 A2 (CALLUNA TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 28 April 1999
- D6) US 2003/0177379 A1 (Hori et al.) 18 September 2003
- D7) WO 2003/012606 A2 (STONEWOOD ELECTRONICS LTD) 13 February 2003
- D8) WO 2000/079392 A1 (FOTONATION, INC) 28 December 2000

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are not considered to be novel or inventive in light of D5, which describes a disk drive having an encryption/decryption circuit, a memory (EPROM 12), and security control means. Paragraph 27 discusses user authentication, and states that on power up, the drive is in the disabled state and is placed in the enabled state by inputting a numerical key that acts like a password. The numerical key is authenticated by the encryption hardware on the drive. If the numerical key is valid read/write access to the drive is granted, but if the numerical key is invalid then such access is denied.

Claim 6 is also not considered to be novel or inventive in light of citations D1 to D4, which each disclose a method of protecting data in which an encryptor is exposed to an interface only upon successful user authentication.

Citations D6 to D8 do not disclose the invention as claimed.

**Industrial Applicability (IA):**

The claimed invention finds use in the field of data storage and clearly meets the requirements for industrial applicability.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

- 1) The use of the phrase "said interface" in claims 4 and 5 is unclear. Claim 4 discloses "a first interface" and "a second interface" and it is not readily apparent which one of these interfaces is being referred to.

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